

Gettysburg College Honor Commission

Yearly Report

Spring 2009

With Cumulative Data from 2006 to 2009

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Introduction

The Gettysburg College Honor Code, revised and approved starting in the Fall 2006 – Spring 2007 academic year, changed the way in which Honor Code violation accusations are handled. A preliminary conference is held with the accused student, any community member the accused student wishes to be present, the faculty member if a course is involved, the Honor Commission chair or vice-chair, and a Dean of Academic Advising. This new protocol gives accused students the chance of presenting and solving his/her case with the people involved before moving to a student-run hearing board, if necessary.

This new process changes the way in which the Honor Commission presents data in the yearly report; therefore, only cumulative data from the Fall 2006 – Spring 2009 academic year will be presented with this year's report. Reports from years past can be accessed by all community members through the Office of Academic Advising.

Statistical Report (Fall 2008-Spring 2009)

Total number of accusations: 48

Cases resolved in preliminary conference: 41

Cases resolved in hearing board: 7

Table 1: Verdicts of the 48 Honor Code accusations.

No Violation	9
Violation	39
Total	48

Table 2: Gender comparison of students found in violation of the Honor Code.

Male	31
Female	8
Total	39

Table 3-Students found in violation of the Honor Code intended graduation year

Class year	Number of violations
2009	14
2010	12
2011	5
2012	8
Total	39

Table 3: Departments in which violations occurred.

Department	Number of violations	Department	Number of violations
Biology	3	Math	1
Economics	2	Music	1
English	2	Political Science	5
German	1	Physics	10
Health Sciences	2	Psychology	2
History	1	Sociology	3
Management	5	Total	39

Table 4: Violation Type

Type of violation	# of violations
Cheating	16 (41%)
Plagiarism	11 (28%)
Lying	2 (5%)
Collaboration	9 (23%)
Theft	1 (2%)
Total	39

Table 5: Penalty Type

Penalty Type	Number of Students Receiving Penalty
Reduction in grade on assignment	4 (10%)
Zero for assignment	15 (38%)
Reduction in final course grade	9 (23%)
Failure in the course	8 (21%)
1 Semester Suspension	3 (8%)
Total	39

Cumulative Statistical Report (Fall 2006-Spring 2009)

Total Number of Accusations: 119

Total Cases Resolved in Preliminary Conference: 101

Total Cases Resolved in Hearing Board: 18

Table 6: Verdicts of the total 119 Honor Code violation accusations

Verdict	Number of Students
No violation	26
Violation	93
Total	119

Table 7: Gender comparison of total students found in violation the Honor Code

Gender	Number of violations
Male	66 (70%)
Female	27 (30%)
Total	93

Table 8: Department in which violation occurred

Department	Number of Violations	Department	Number of Violations
African American Studies	6	Management	9
Anthropology	3	Mathematics	4
Biology	4	Music	2
Chemistry	2	Physics	18
Classical Studies	1	Political Science	9
Economics	4	Psychology	3
English	7	Sociology	4
German	3	Spanish	1
Health Sciences	2	Visual Arts	1
History	4	Women's Studies	1
Japanese Studies	1	Total	89

*Note that 4 violations occurred outside the purview of a course

Table 9: Violation Type

Violation	Number of Violations
Plagiarism	30 (32%)
Collaboration	18 (19%)
Lying and Forgery	15 (16%)
Defacing Library Materials	1 (1%)
Cheating	28 (30%)
Theft	1 (1%)
Total	93

Table 10: Penalty Type

Penalty	Number of Students Receiving Penalty
Academic Suspension Alert	3
Restitution	1
Reduction in Grade on Assignment	4
Reduction in Course Grade	21
Failure on Assignment	32
Failure in the Course	21
Suspension 1 Semester	5
Suspension 2 Semesters	1
Expulsion	2
Other	3
Total	93

Conclusion

The Gettysburg Honor Commission's goal is to promote and instill academic integrity in our community. National statistics, however, show that cheating is happening at a higher rate than is reported to Gettysburg College, as informal surveys of college students show that 75% to as much as 98% of college students cheat during their academic years. More formal studies show that the cheating rate among college students approaches 50%¹. At Gettysburg College, the 93 Honor Code violations seen in these two years involved approximately 2% of the student population.

With all the facts considered, it appears that cheating and other acts of dishonesty are significantly underreported. Even though institutions with Honor Codes experience fewer cases of cheating than do institutions without Honor Codes², cheating, collaboration, and other acts of dishonesty still occur at Gettysburg, and it is the community members' duty and responsibility under the Gettysburg College Honor code to report such violations.

¹ Pino, Nathan; Smith, William. "College students and academic dishonesty." College Student Journal. December 2003.

² McCabe, Donald et. al "Academic Integrity in Honor Code and Non-Honor Code Environments: A Qualitative Investigation." The Journal of Higher Education. (1999). 70(2), 211-234